

Maverick Carter House  
Historic 1893 Downtown San Antonio House  
Architect Alfred Giles

The three-story limestone Maverick Carter House was constructed on the north side of San Antonio's central business district in 1893 for real estate developer William Harvey Maverick, son of Texas Declaration of Independence signer Samuel Augustus Maverick. When originally built, the home was situated on the banks of the San Antonio river, which was rechanneled for flood control Purposes in 1920. Maverick raised his children in the home and resided here until 1910, when he sold the house to his son, Robert.

Attorney and former president of the Texas Bar Association, H.C. Carter, purchased the house in 1914. Carter's second wife, Aline (Badger), converted the first floor library into a chapel and constructed an observatory on the roof of the home ca. 1925. Aline, a noted poet, artist, astronomer, musician and humanitarian, served as poet laureate of Texas from 1947-49. Aline also taught astronomy to children and hosted an annual Christmas party for San Antonio orphans here in her home. After raising three children and H.C.'s Death in 1948, Aline continued to live here until her death in 1972; the Home remains in the Carter family.

The 23-room home was designed by prominent San Antonio architect Alfred Giles (1853-1920), who also designed at least nine other Buildings for the Maverick family. The Richardsonian Romanesque façade features rusticated stone walls and sills, round and arched windows, a rounded tower with a conical roof, a porte-cochère and a slate roof. The house was designed with multiple parlors and bedrooms. Significant interior materials include bird's eye maple and oak wainscoting, hard pine doors and window frames, sandstone mantelpieces and parquet floors.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 2010



Carter House Observatory  
Design: Ethel & Arthur Harris  
Ca. 1925

Aline B. Carter (1892-1927), Poet Laureate of the State of Texas (1947-1949) and astronomy educator, established this small observatory in the middle of downtown San Antonio with the goal of advancing knowledge of the universe for her students. A 4-inch telescope was installed in the observatory in the 1920s. Students at the Witte Museum were introduced to the Moon and stars in the early 1960's. Carter's enthusiasm for the universe was a natural adjunct to her religious spirituality, in addition to her humanitarian activities. She believed that God meant for people to appreciate the wonders of his work. This was emulated by the phrase "When I Consider Thy Heavens O Lord" that was engraved on the interior of the Dome.

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